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SECTION A

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STROH SUES POWELL FOR SLANDER

COUNCIL RENEWS OUSTER BATTLE THIS AFTERNOON

Only a few hours elapsed between the time Tuesday when City Councilman George V. Powell was named as defendant by Police Chief John Stroh in a \$40,000 slander suit and when, at an adjourned meeting of the city council, his action in pressing for Stroh's removal from office and subsequent reduction in rank was subjected to the most grilling examination a councilmanic move has been given in recent years.

Attorney Warns Council of Suit Over Stroh Case

The real "fireworks" of Tuesday afternoon's city council session came when A. Belden Gilbert, secretary of the Peace Officers Civil Service Association, asked the council to rescind its action taken May 14 in reducing Chief Stroh "on the grounds that it was illegally done, did not follow the city ordinance requirements and that Stroh be restored to his position as chief. We have our counsel here who will make a statement," he said introducing Attorney Sheedy.

"This is a very grave matter," the lawyer began, "because it has certain important ramifications and seriously reflects on a fine citizen of your city. However, I'm primarily concerned with the legal aspects of the pseudo-action taken by your honorable body."

Sheedy then quoted extracts from the city ordinance governing police department employees which he said tended to show that the council "had in no sense complied with the terms." The ordinance, he quoted, provides that an employee may demand a public trial, that the chief of the police department is appointed by the council but his removal can only be accomplished as provided for other members of "classified service, that is after written charges have been filed with a civil service trial board, 10 days notice given and a public hearing conducted."

Warns of Litigation
"The very serious charge made against Chief Stroh forced me, as his personal attorney, to take other steps," Sheedy said in his only comment concerning the filing of a slander suit that morning against Powell. He continued by saying that the council preempted to itself the duties of the civil service commission and reminded board members that "no charges have ever been served upon Stroh—he doesn't even know officially what you have done because he has never been formally notified in writing. I presume, of course, that he has read the newspapers."

"The situation as I see it is that this ordinance is seriously faulty in that it has no provision in it for dismissal of a police chief or state who should file charges against him. It states that any member of the department under the chief may have charges filed on him by the chief—but a chief is certainly not going to file charges against himself!"

"We have no desire to do a lot of litigating about this case, however we do intend to devote the entire resources of our organization in defending Chief Stroh against these unwarranted and illegally made accusations. If he is discharged, that leaves us no alternative except to mandate your honorable body, causing considerable expense to your city. We maintain he is still chief of police and is entitled to compensation as such. All this will be taken care of in court if necessary."

Told to Impound Money
"While this is a purported dismissal of a chief of police, it is our contention that it is an abuse of privilege of office by one or more of your members," Sheedy continued. "The charges were cloaked by malice which removes privilege enjoyed by public officers. I earnestly suggest that you either rescind your action of May 14 or at least you make some attempt to serve Stroh with what purports to be the charges against him. I can (Continued on Page 5A)

Plaintiff



CHIEF JOHN STROH
Who, on the eve of a scheduled reduction to police captain, filed a \$40,000 slander suit Tuesday against...

Defendant



GEORGE V. POWELL
L. A. school board employee who began his second council term by charging Stroh and City Judge Robert Lessing with "shortages" in public funds.

Powell and Isen See Jury Head

LOS ANGELES, May 22—(Special to The Herald)—Councilman George V. Powell of Torrance arrived at the grand jury offices shortly before noon today and conferred with Judge Edwin F. Hahn, former Superior court judge and chairman of the 1940 grand jury.

The Torrance councilman, key figure in a post-election municipal controversy centering around the police and city judge departments, was accompanied by Attorney Albert Isen, his campaign manager, according to an attaché of the jury.

Powell did not go before the grand jury itself to transmit a request from the Torrance council for an investigation of what he alleged May 14 was a "shortage" in the public accounts of the police chief and city judge "eight or nine months ago."

Legion Arranging Park Rally for "First Voters"

Climaxed by a public demonstration of the patriotic and civic program of the American Legion in the city park June 13, the Torrance post approached the end of the Legion's year this week with three events on its calendar.

"The first was the dinner meeting held Tuesday evening with Walter Rowland, first vice-commander, pinch-hitting for Commander Pete Peterson, and Lou Deiningner in charge of the impromptu entertainment. Peterson has moved out of the district.

On June 4 several important business matters are to be transacted at an evening session, including the nomination of officers for the ensuing year and election of convention delegates.

Support of all civic organizations for the patriotic demonstration in the city park June 13 has been secured, it is reported. The assembly is to be held chiefly in honor of all young people of the community who will cast their first presidential vote this year. They will be addressed by an outstanding speaker on the duties of citizenship and intelligent use of the ballot.

The crack Compton infantry drill team will formally initiate all members of the Post who have never been accorded this privilege and the national colors, now worn almost thread-bare in long and faithful service to the local Post will be retired and a new flag dedicated. A detachment of regular U. S. Marines will assist members of the Legion in this impressive ceremony.

Powell Order to Release Prisoner Rapped by Judge

Councilman George V. Powell is not the only Torrance public official interested in investigations.

This week he became the object of a requested probe as result of obtaining the release of a prisoner charged with drunk driving from the city jail on his order as "police commissioner."

The investigation was requested by City Judge Robert Lessing who, on May 14, was made the object of a grand jury probe by Powell. Judge Lessing asked Police Chief John Stroh, demoted to captain, effective June 1, by the councilman, to report why P. H. Hall, 41, 1916 Gramercy avenue, who was arrested Saturday night for driving while intoxicated, was released from jail at Powell's request.

Must Have Court's Consent
Hall pleaded guilty to the charge Monday morning and was fined \$50 or 25 days in jail. He asked the court if he could pay the fine on the installment plan and Judge Lessing took this under consideration for a week.

In his letter to Chief Stroh, the local magistrate said Hall's release as noted on the police blotter "to Commissioner Powell" was without precedent in Torrance or anywhere else. He reminded the police head that no prisoner may be released without bail or the consent of the court and said the incident "warranted an investigation."

An investigation of "this strange procedure" would inquire against future unlawful releases of prisoners by persons who have no connection with the police court, Judge Lessing pointed out.

HAUGE SEEKS ELECTION AS SUPERVISOR IN PRIMARY

In announcing his candidacy for election Aug. 27 to the office of supervisor of the Fourth district which he has held by appointment since Dec. 1, 1938, Dr. Oscar Hauge this week declared that "I have at all times very earnestly endeavored to perform the duties of my office in a conscientious and efficient manner."

Supervisor Hauge continued his declaration of candidacy with the following statement: "My four years as chief deputy director of the state department of finance of the state of California, and my three years as mayor of the city of Long Beach, together with many years of public service in various capacities in the state of Minnesota before coming to California, have proved to be a most valuable experience and training in the discharge of my duties as supervisor."

"I pledge my very best efforts in the future, as in the past, to serve the people of the county as a whole, and especially the people of the fourth supervisorial district."

"It seems to me permissible at this time to remind my constituents that for the first time in many, many years, and under the most adverse conditions that ever existed in the county of Los Angeles, the board of supervisors reduced the tax rate for the present fiscal year, without the slightest impairment of efficiency in public service, and without in any way infringing upon the humanitarian side of government. In all of this I played a very definite part, and the tax-paying public may be assured that this same policy will be continued by me." Supervisor Hauge concludes.

"The suspension was invoked for violation of the state law forbidding sale of liquor to a minor."

Two firemen-engineers were raised to captaincies by the city council Tuesday on recommendation of Fire Chief J. E. McMaster and Councilman George V. Powell. They are J. R. Winters and W. R. West, who were advanced in rank for a probationary period of six months beginning June 1.

Winters and West were "high men" on the civil service list and will be the first captains appointed in recent months.

By-Products Plant Awarded City Permit
On recommendation of City Engineer Leonard Young, a permit was granted by the city council Tuesday to the Industrial By-Products Company, a one-man concern, to manufacture iron sulfate from waste liquor coming from the galvanizing pickling plant of the International Derrick and Equipment Company. The by-products plant, which raises no objectionable odors according to Young, will be located next to the Ideco concern on Carson street.

Fall From Truck Injures Woman
Seriously injured when she fell off the rear of a truck while the machine was making a right-hand turn onto Cedar avenue off Torrance boulevard last Friday morning, Mrs. Angelina Medina, 65, of Spencer and Hawthorne boulevards, is confined at the Los Angeles General hospital.

1 KILLED and 34 Injured in Auto Collisions here to date 1940.



MEMORIAL DAY

ABRAHAM LINCOLN, at Gettysburg, spoke words to which he attached no world-stirring significance. They were merely an expression of thoughts which, to him, were a creed. They were nothing new to him. The students and practitioners of liberty took up those words and showed them to the world as America's own expression and interpretation of belief. Lincoln's simple statement of what he considered as known facts thus became a flaming pennant that proclaims the spirit of the Stars and Stripes. With such a creed for our land it leads us to resolve more firmly than ever right now that these precious possessions shall not perish from the earth!

Community Music Festival Planned by Local Talent at Methodist Church

Taking advantage of some of the musical talent that has appeared at Torrance high school and in the Woman's Club, the Methodist church has been speeding up a plan to present a variety of music artists in two or three programs on Tuesday, May 28. In

While many musicians are heard by certain organizations with some regularity, a large number of residents do not ordinarily have the opportunity of hearing them. It is planned to present a large number of such vocal and instrumental leaders in the simplest manner possible and it is hoped in the most convenient hours to permit musicians and audience to get together.

Several individuals, including Mrs. Marjorie Cooke of the high school music department, Mrs. Kathryn Buffington, Mrs. Lorene Ulrich, Mrs. Elsa DeBra, Mrs. Phyrne Laughon, Mrs. Frances Young and others are seeking to combine local talent with possibly an out-of-town artist, for each program.

The hours and the programs will be announced during the weekend at the Methodist church. The ladies of the church will serve ice cream and cake for which tickets will be sold. The Kiwanis Club has taken a preliminary step in acting as one of the co-sponsors in this venture. Other groups will be invited to share in the common desire to enjoy the great variety of musical ability which is local to our city.

Want Ad Rhymes Contest Winners

Roving over Lomita, Walteria, Harbor City and Torrance, the Herald-News Want Ad Rhymes editor dropped in at cafes, real estate offices, used car lots, and wherever there were a few people assembled and submitted this week's rhyme entries for judgment. The following winners were selected:

FIRST PRIZE WINNER
Herbert Fleck, Lomita, will kindly call at our Torrance office for the \$1 cash award.

SECOND PRIZE WINNER
E. L. Horton, 2023 Gramercy, Torrance, will kindly call at our Torrance office for two tickets to the Torrance theatre. Also, with proper identification and a copy of this news story, Van's will gladly give you \$1 service credit when you call on them.

THIRD PRIZE WINNER
Nadine Deloree, 1808 West (Continued on Page 7-A)

High School to Have Uniformed Band Next Fall

Next fall when the thud of a cleared shoe meeting football resounds thru the air and Marine League grid teams swing into action, Torrance high's supporters are to be accompanied by a uniformed band—by present plans of Director Louis James Sauter materialize and some band instruments are acquired by some 30 aspiring musicians.

Sauter believes he has the nucleus of a fine school band already in training for the next school term. He has done a great deal to revive interest in band and orchestral music among the students, according to Principal Tom H. Elson.

"Youth Needs" Survey Made at High School

Forty Torrance high school students this week filled out a "Youth Needs" questionnaire for E. Justin Hills of Los Angeles City college, who is conducting a survey to determine something about the needs, hopes and desires of youth of this community. The students were selected from the senior problems classes.

MARCH OF RIMES

TO ARMS, YE MALES!—By H. F. NOAKE

Oh slumbering man, the time draws nigh when thou must rise and lend thy might; for, as it looms from where we sit there comes another "finish" fight. They hover over thee in droves, like buzzards high above a bay, while thou art snoozing they descend, and presto! snatch thy jobs away. Already thou hast evidence they will call fill thy ample shoes, in each edition of the press, their names, forsooth, are making news. Yea verily thy vast domain seems not what 'twas cracked up to be; for man doth slowly abdicate and in his place appears a she. Peruse thy cabinet in Wash., where Madame Perkins fills a chair, thou shouldst feel sick when tuning in, "The little man who wasn't there." Canst see that women, slow but sure are on the march, their flags unfurled; and echoing their battle cry, "We'll wear the pants and rule the world." Oh slumbering man thou must come to, or else, gadzooks, will thee repent, when thou awakest up to find, some dizzy blonde is President.



NOAKE